

CLAIMS:

1. A method of treating obesity in an animal, comprising administering to an animal in need thereof an effective amount of a peptide wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of a growth hormone, and wherein said peptide is not the intact, full-length growth hormone.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said carboxyl-terminal sequence comprises a bioactive lipid metabolic domain of the growth hormone effective to reduce body weight gain and adipose tissue mass in an obese animal.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a human.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of human growth hormone.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises amino acid residues 177-191 of human growth hormone.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of a non-human mammalian growth hormone.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of a non-human mammalian growth hormone corresponding to amino acid residues 177-191 of human growth hormone.

8. The method according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein said non-human growth hormone is selected from the group consisting of bovine, porcine, ovine, equine, feline and canine growth hormone.
9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered orally.
10. A pharmaceutical composition for treating obesity in an animal, comprising an effective amount of a peptide wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of a growth hormone, and wherein said peptide is not the intact, full-length growth hormone together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
11. The composition according to claim 10, wherein said carboxyl-terminal sequence comprises a bioactive lipid metabolic domain of the growth hormone effective to reduce body weight gain and adipose tissue mass in an obese animal.
12. The composition according to claim 10, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of human growth hormone.
13. The composition according to claim 12, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises amino acid residues 177-191 of human growth hormone.
14. The composition according to claim 10, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of a non-human mammalian growth hormone.
15. The composition according to claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide comprises the carboxyl-terminal sequence of a non-human

mammalian growth hormone corresponding to amino acid residues 177-191 of human growth hormone.

16. The composition according to claim 14 or claim 15, wherein said non-human growth hormone is selected from the group consisting of bovine, porcine, ovine, equine, feline and canine growth hormone.
17. The composition according to claim 10, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents are orally acceptable.